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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Jami Masjid (Old Delhi), the largest mosque in India, built by Shah Jahan, 1658. *Photo by John Byrum*

Reports of Library of Congress attendees to the 58th annual IFLA conference:

☐ IFLA Official Opening and Plenary Session 3
☐ Round Table of Newspapers 4
☐ Section on Classification and Indexing 4
☐ Section on Cataloging Standing Committee Meetings 5
☐ Section on Cataloging Program Meeting 6
☐ Workshop on the Revision of Names of Persons 7
☐ Open Forum of the Division of Bibliographic Control 7
☐ Open Session of the Section on Information Technology 8
☐ Open Forum on Core Programs 9
☐ Serial Publications Standing Committee 10
☐ Open Program on Serial Publications 10
☐ Section on Acquisition and Exchange 11
☐ Workshop on Exchange 12
☐ Parliamentary Libraries Section: Section Dinner 13
☐ Parliamentary Libraries Section: Standing Committee Meetings 13
☐ Parliamentary Libraries Section: Open Meeting 13
☐ Section on Libraries for the Blind 14
☐ IFLA Closing 14

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New Delhi Welcomes IFLA Participants:

LC's Local Office Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The 58th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) was held, Aug. 24 through Sept. 4, in New Delhi, India. Along with attending meetings, the Library's delegation also played a role in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the New Delhi field office.

The overseas offices were established, using Public Law-480-generated local currency, to acquire hard-to-get foreign publications for the Library and participating institutions.

The following reports cover opening and closing sessions, divisional and sectional programs, business sessions, open forums, workshops and other meetings attended.

In addition to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, the following traveled to New Delhi as representatives for the Library:

☐ Julianne Beall of the Decimal Classification Division, Collections Services

☐ John Byrum of the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division, Collections Services

☐ Kimberly Dobbs of the Serial Record Division, Collections Services

☐ Robert Harriman of the Serial Record Division, Collections Services

☐ Sally McCallum of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Collections Services

☐ Judy McDermott of the Exchange and Gift Division, Collections Services

☐ Kathryn Mendenhall of the Cataloging Distribution Service, Constituent Services

☐ Michael Moodie of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Constituent Services

☐ William Robinson of the Congressional Research Service

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1962-1992
A 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

☐ Chandru Shahani of the Preservation Research and Testing Office, Collections Services

☐ Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Collections Services

IFLA Official Opening and Plenary Session

Delegates representing more than 70 countries traveled by bus and taxi from conference hotels to New Delhi's Siri Fort Auditorium to attend the Opening and Plenary Sessions of the 58th IFLA General Conference. The conference was inaugurated by Arjun Singh, minister of Human Resource Development, who noted that the government of India is in the midst of implementing a report on the National Policy on Libraries and Information Systems, with the intent of bringing about "a radical program of development in the library and information system."

Referring to a growing awareness of the need to share resources to assure that information is made available to all, Mr. Singh recognized the progress made in India in establishing a number of multilevel networks. To support these efforts, Mr. Singh concluded, "We are eagerly looking forward to the recommendations that will emerge from this conference."

Reflecting on the dramatic events witnessed by delegates to last year's IFLA General Conference, and the massive changes that have followed throughout 1991, Robert Wedgeworth, newly elected president of IFLA, organized his remarks under the theme of "new beginnings." Following tributes to both S.R. Ranganathan, in whose memory the conference was dedicated, and William Warner Bishop, the only previous U.S. librarian to serve as president of IFLA, Dr. Wedgeworth summarized what he referred to as the "status and condition of the library world."

His remarks highlighted a list of "examples of progress, innovation, vision, courage and persistence," that have been possible in spite of the threats posed by worldwide recession and political turmoil. Noting that a major barrier to attracting greater support for library programs is the perceived image and status of librarians, Dr. Wedgeworth stated that a major goal during his tenure will be to find ways to make the activities of librarians more visible and understandable to the general public.

Girja Kumar, chairman of the Indian Organizing Committee for IFLA, in observing the importance of this conference for India and Indian librarians, called the conference the "greatest show on earth" for the library community of India.

Additional remarks and words of welcome were presented by Abdul

Aziz Abid, on behalf of the director general of UNESCO; Mr. Upreti, director general of the National Archives of India, on behalf of the International Council of Archives; and C.P. Vashishth, president of the Indian Library Association.

Eric de Grolier, conseil internationale des Sciences Sociales, UNESCO, Paris, spoke to the plenary session on "Ranganathan's Heritage and Library/Information Policy Perspectives."

Dr. de Grolier highlighted the many contributions of Ranganathan in distilling the "laws" of library science; in the design of national library systems; in developing and promoting adult education programs; in recognizing the needs of library users; in recognizing the possibilities of new technologies for broadening access to information; in the professional training of librarians and the development of professional literature; and in the field of classification, adequate recognition of which would require a whole separate conference.

In summarizing this vast contribution to the profession and its development, de Grolier stated that 20 years after the death of Ranganathan, his inspiration remains; and "the Indian term 'guru' comes immediately to the fore."

—*Robert Harriman*

Round Table on Newspapers

The IFLA Round Table on Newspapers held an Open Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1. Robert Harriman, Library of Congress, reviewed the work program of the Round Table over the past three years and outlined program plans through the current Medium Term Programme, 1992-1997.

M.P. Govindaraj, librarian for *The Hindu*, distributed copies of the newly published index to that newspaper and discussed indexing and clipping projects in India, including the prospects for application of new technologies to enhance access to the contents of newspapers.

Additional discussion focused on prospects for cooperation between and among the Round Table and newspaper librarians and others in special libraries in developing nations, as well as the need both in developed and in developing nations for more communication and cooperation between those working with newspaper collections in university or research libraries and librarians working for newspapers.

On Thursday, Sept. 3, the Round Table on Newspapers, in cooperation with the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation, presented a half-day workshop on newspaper preservation and conservation techniques. Jan Lyall, National Library of Australia, chaired the workshop and presented an overview of preservation management issues.

N.N. Sarkar, National Library of India, presented a paper describing research in the preservation of newsprint carried out at the National Library, Calcutta, that generated much helpful discussion about treatment options and techniques. Dr. Lyall then concluded the workshop with a review of storage and housing techniques being developed at the National Library of Australia. Dr. Lyall also distributed samples of several protective enclosures developed by her institution that could be copied and manufactured locally.

—*Robert Harriman*

Section on Classification and Indexing

For the Sept. 2 program meeting of the Section on Classification and Indexing, M.P. Satija of Guru Nanak Dev University described the state of the art of classification and indexing in India, stressing the influence of S.R. Ranganathan. The Documentation Research and Training Centre in Bangalore has continued the work of Ranganathan, for example, by developing detailed classification schedules for specific subjects, updating the Colon Classification (7th edition, 1987) and developing the POPSI (Postulate Based Permuted Subject Indexing) scheme to overcome some difficulties with Ranganathan's chain indexing.

Classification is a major focus of teaching, research and conferences in India. The Dewey Decimal Classification is the most widely used general classification scheme in Indian libraries; the Colon Classification and the Universal Decimal Classification are the other most commonly used systems.

M. A. Gopinath of the Documentation Research and Training Centre in Bangalore presented a paper by A. Neelameghan of the School of Information Studies for Africa in Addis Ababa. The paper focused on use of Ranganathan's analytico-synthetic methodology in developing specialized data bases, stressing that there is much similarity between the procedures for developing a classification scheme and those for developing a specialized data base.

With this approach to data base design, the user can be guided from a broad initial query to the specific information needed. For example, in a data base of case histories of hospital patients, a user who inputs the term "case" will be shown a list of the areas into which case histories have been divided, such as administrative information, symptoms/signs, pathology, treatment, followup; the user can select one of these areas to begin narrowing the search.

Werner Stephan of the Deutsche Bibliothek reported on the *Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries* being developed to supplement the 1984 IFLA publication *Guidelines for Authority and Reference Entries* which explicitly excluded subject authorities. A draft was sent for worldwide review, and changes are now being considered in response to comments received.

A discussion followed on the

Guidelines, which deal with the structure and display of information in either manual or machine-readable authority files, and they are designed to be general enough for any subject heading system.

The Standing Committee of the Section on Classification and Indexing met twice, with chair Dorothy McGarry of the University of California, Los Angeles. The committee selected a corresponding member from India and discussed soliciting corresponding members from other countries whose citizens would not ordinarily be able to attend IFLA conferences.

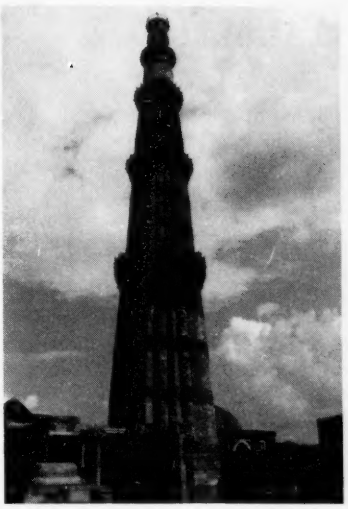
The section-sponsored Working Group on Principles for the Construction of Subject Headings, with Elaine Svenonius of the University of California, Los Angeles, as chair, continued working on its statement of principles underlying subject heading languages. The group agreed to broaden its scope to include principles for the application of subject headings.

An organizing committee chaired by Ines Lopes of the Biblioteca Nacional in Portugal planned a two-day section-sponsored satellite meeting, "Subject Indexing: Principles and Practices in the '90s," in Lisbon shortly before the 1993 IFLA meeting in Barcelona. On the first day, many speakers from different countries will describe current systems and practices in their countries. The second day will address current issues in subject indexing, such as precoordination vs. postcoordination, whether a subject cataloging code is needed and standardization.

—Julianne Beall

Section on Cataloging Standing Committee Meetings

Nancy John of the University of Illinois at Chicago presided over the meetings of the Section on Cataloging Standing Committee on Aug. 30 and Sept. 4. Highlights of these sessions include the following announcements, reports and decisions:



Qutab Minar, built in 1193 as a tower of victory after the defeat of the last Hindu Kingdom in New Delhi. *Photo by John Byrum*

The project to consider suggested amendments to the published International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions in order to reconcile prescribed practices and correct errors, prompted by Anthony Curwen as a result of his research to produce *ISBD Manual,* has been concluded. The list of changes will be announced in a forthcoming issue of *International Cataloging and Bibliographic Control.* K.G. Sauer, publisher of these standards, will be asked to affix "errata" slips to copies for future purchasers.

The section is planning a series of workshops to acquaint constituents in developing regions with the programs promoted by the Division on Bibliographic Control and administered by the UBCIM Office. The first will be held in Rio de Janeiro in January 1993.

The Study Group on Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records has made good progress in defining terms of reference for its activities, selecting and meeting with consultants and developing a schedule for the group's work. The purpose of this undertaking is to delineate functions performed by bibliographic data with respect to a variety of media, applications and user needs.

The project will examine both descriptive elements and organizing elements for their cost effectiveness. The study group plans to recommend a basic level of functionality to guide bibliographic agencies and expects to present the results of this project at an international conference in fall 1994. Olivia Madison of Iowa State University is chair of the study group.

The Standing Committee, headed by John Byrum, Library of Congress, reviewed the progress of the Working Group on Simplification of the ISBD(M) and authorized a worldwide review of the proposed *Concise ISBD(M),* which the group presented. This version of the *International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographs* seeks to abbreviate the full set of requirements and to present principles and guidelines in a more compact, user-friendly text. The review, to comprise a six-month period, is expected to begin in December.

A Working Group, chaired by Jacques van Gent of the University Library at Leiden, submitted proposals to amend the *Guidelines for Authority and Reference Entries (GARE)* in order to take into account the characteristics of bibliographic records for musical works, in particular, uniform titles.

The group has several objectives related to multilingual/multiscript cataloging issues and is collaborating with other sections in planning and presentation of a satellite workshop to be held in Madrid, the site of the next year's IFLA Conference. The conference will look at state-of-the-art technological developments regarding automation of catalogs

that are of a complex nature involving bibliographic data in more than one vernacular script.

The committee is also interested in encouraging appointment of a Vosper Fellow to examine cataloging problems in this area.

At the 1993 IFLA Conference, the Section on Cataloging Standing Committee will sponsor a program that will focus on catalogs for different types of users and a poster session on the topic of "Online Catalogs Around the World".

—John Byrum

Section on Cataloging Program Meeting

Barbara Ford of Virginia Commonwealth University presented "Training Non-Catalogers about Cataloging" at the Section on Cataloging Program Meeting, held Sept. 1. Ms. Ford's remarks addressed the importance of preparing public service libraries for their critical responsibilities in the design, implementation and improvement of on-line catalogs. Public libraries "need to be well informed to help users solve problems and to accurately report problems needing cataloging attention to the cataloging staff," she said.

Because many graduate library programs no longer require course work in cataloging, training to provide the reference librarian with a basic knowledge of descriptive and subject cataloging will have to be acquired on the job with the help of staff from the catalog department. Noting that "when users do a subject search, they are almost as likely to fail as to succeed in retrieving even a single relevant hit," Ms. Ford observed that on-line data bases that feature transaction logs provide useful information to catalogers about the training needs of public service staff and end users.

Training in the on-line environment must be carefully planned and should involve those to be trained. "The trainee must see the need for the change and believe that the session will be a beneficial step." With technology developing so rapidly, library management should allow time for such training on a regular basis as well as provide budget support. In addition, catalogers need to take an aggressive role in being certain that public service librarians get the training they need to help catalog users make the best use of this valuable tool," the on-line catalog.

Karen Muller of the American Library Association presented "Educating Users About Catalogs and Cataloging: The Impossible Dream" for author Sharon Hogan of the University of Illinois at Chicago. An extensive review and analysis of the many studies undertaken to determine how library patrons use the manual and catalog leads to the conclusions that "the user education librarian must understand what the points of failure in using the catalogs are likely to be and how to apply a catalog's philosophy in order to teach the user how to avoid failure."

Turning to studies of how patrons deal with on-line catalogs, Ms. Hogan reported three major differences between the automated and the manual environments: subject approach in place of an author approach, spelling errors in citations are now compounded by user typing errors, and absence of standardization in search keys for information retrieval that impedes users moving from one automated catalog to another.

One challenge brought by the advent of on-line bibliographic data bases is to take advantage of new opportunities to analyze the impact of cataloging rules on user behavior. It is necessary to question traditional practices and ask such questions as: Should the concept of contents notes be expended by adding table-of-contents information to the catalog record? Would it be useful and cost effective to include indexes from monographs in their bibliographic record? Should the catalog link entries for serials to the indexing and abstracting services to which the library subscribes in order to enable the user to "move seamlessly from article to journal title to call number"? Should the automated catalog be an integrated file containing records for all kinds of materials, including manuscript collections and architectural representations that formerly have been maintained separately?

To answer these questions, to promote uniformity in access and display of records and to investigate the potential of hypertext and artificial intelligence in improving the success rate of the user, "we need to expand the scope of cataloging beyond its current boundaries, and in doing so the ultimate goods should be standards predictability brought about by standards," said Ms. Hogan.

Following the presentations Barbara Borg of the Stockholm Public Library and Jacques van Gent of the Leiden University Library spoke as reactors. Ms. Borg felt that the issues under consideration become even more difficult in the context of public libraries, where perhaps 50 percent of the patrons do not use the catalog.

In Europe, Northern Africa and some parts of Asia, a significant portion of the potential patrons are refugees or transients whose needs are harder to satisfy because they entail multilingual and multiscript resources, making the catalog a more complicated tool. In addition, given the availability of centralized cataloging services, less cataloging is originated in-house in the case of public libraries, resulting in a scarcity of expertise for helping other staff and users cope with the complexities of the catalog.

Finally, Ms. Borg urged that more effort be focused on educating publishers in cataloging matters. Many of the problems faced by the catalogers and the catalog user arise from their failure to set out title

pages and other bibliographic features in a straightforward and unambiguous way.

Mr. van Gent argued that more effort should be expended on teaching users how to compensate for inadequate citations when searching the on-line catalog and how to more accurately perform their search commands. There followed a lively discussion concerning these and other related problems.

—John Byrum

Workshop on the Revision of Names of Persons

A half-day workshop on the revision of *Names of Persons* was held on Sept. 3, under sponsorship of the UBCIM Programme, the Sections on Bibliography and Cataloging and the Division of Regional Activities. Francoise Bourdon of Bibliothèque Nationale presided over the workshop which focused on the work she had done as a Vosper Fellow.

The purpose of the workshop was to assess the adequacy of the IFLA publication *Names of Persons* and to determine the feasibility of producing a new edition of this publication.

In April 1992, Ms. Bourdon canvassed organizations in 153 countries. She noted that areas such as Central and South America, Africa, and Asia, where there might be need for additional or updated provisions to guide bibliographic agencies, did not participate very extensively.

Those responding said that in many cases *Names of Persons* is not widely known and that national cataloging standards are preferred sources for guidelines.

The participants suggested that a new edition would be more useful. There was also support for introductory materials being available in several IFLA official languages and for an expansion of chapters arranged by name of country in English. Alternative rules should be provided where necessary and the revised edition published as a book.

Workshop attendees offered suggestions on how to produce a revised *Names of Persons*. The project could be organized around volunteers representing the respective regions.

The meeting concluded with the recommendation that work in this area proceed with the expectation that a preliminary draft be available by the summer of 1993. The provisions for individual countries would be forwarded to national agencies for their review at that time. A suggestion was offered that IFLA mount an effort to encourage development of an international authority—a formidable undertaking as Ms. Bourdon observed in concluding the session.

—John Byrum

Open Forum: Division of Bibliographic Control

On Aug. 31 Nancy John of the University of Illinois at Chicago convened the Open Forum of the Division of Bibliographic Control by introducing Mare-France Plassard who reported on the 1991-1992 activities of the IFLA Core Programme for Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM).

Ms. Plassard, program officer, indicated an increased interest among European Community national utilities in using UNIMARC for the exchange of bibliographic data. During this period, the National Library of Portugal began production of a sample data base of UNIMARC records with titles, both monographic and serial, selected in several languages. CDS/ISIS, the software used to operate this data base, will be discussed in a workshop at the 1993 IFLA Conference in Barcelona.

Ms. Plassard announced that K. G. Saur has published several new titles in the UBCIM new series – *Management and Use of Name Authority Files, Corporate Bodies and Uniform Titles*, by Marcelle Beaudiquez and Francoise Bourdon (ISBN 3-598-11084-7); *Seminar on Bibliographic Records*, edited by Ross Bourne (ISBN 3-598-11085-5); and *Minimal Level Cataloging by National Bibliographic Agencies*, by Jam Lambrecht (ISBN 3-598-1102-9).

Ms. Plassard also related that the UBCIM office had authorized translating of several of the International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (ISBDs) and other publications into Russian, Croation, Greek, Japanese and other languages.

With the program officer as its representative, UBCIM has established a liaison with other groups involved in the standardization of bibliographic activities, including ISO # TC46/SCI and the International Serials Data System.

Ms. Plassard concluded by noting that UBCIM had secured funding through March 1994 and that the host institution, the Deutsche Bibliothek "is confident that a long-term solution can be provided afterward."

Ross Bourne of the British Library reported on the work of the Division of Bibliographic Control, indicating that its Coordinating Board will act as an advisory committee to the UBCIM and to the editorial board to the Programme's journal, *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control*—(ICBC).

Francoise Bourdon of Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, followed with a report on the Section on Bibliography's activities, which have included feasibility studies that will: determine whether a revision is needed of the IFLA recommendations on the parameters and contents of national bibliographies, first issued in 1977; oversee a project to produce a new edition of the IFLA publication *Names of Persons*.

The Section will also sponsor a study to identify recommendations: to improve production of national bibliographies in countries where existing resources do not adequately support this work; and a project to encourage greater inclusion of

nonprint media in current national bibliographies. The Section is planning a workshop for commercial publishers and national bibliographic agencies to build better cooperation during the 1993 IFLA Conference.

Inger Cathrine Spangen of the Norwegian School of Library and Information Science reviewed recent activities of the Section on Cataloging. The longterm project to revise existing ISBDs has finally been completed with publication this year of a new edition of *International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (General);* however, work continues on an initiative to prepare a concise version of the ISBD for monographs to simplify its detailed provisions.

The select modifications to the recommendations of the IFLA publication *Form and Structure of Corporate Headings* have been approved for worldwide review; the descriptions should appear in the last issue of the 1992 ICBC.

The Section has set up a group to oversee a commissioned study of the functional requirements of bibliographic records and is working on provisions to extend the *Guidelines for Authority and Reference Entries* to cover uniform titles for music. A seminar on Universal Bibliographic Control in Brazil was scheduled for November 1992 as the first of a series of educational workshops.

The Section will also cosponsor a satellite meeting next year in Madrid on "Automated Systems for Access to Multilingual and Multiscript Materials," a topic closely related to its interest in assessing the problems and prospects of linking multilingual/multiscript authority files.

A major project of the Section on Classification and Indexing has been the drafting of Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries, according to its chairperson, Dorothy McGarry of the University of California, Los Angeles. The worldwide review of this document has been concluded and publication of the final text is expected in 1993. A working group appointed to examine the feasibility of developing an internationally acceptable statement of principles for the construction of subject headings is continuing with its investigations.

The Section expects this project to benefit from the exchange of information of a satellite meeting it planned for next year in Lisbon. The topic will be on cataloging/indexing systems used in agencies in various countries.

—*John Byrum*

Open Session of the Section on Information Technology

The Open Session of the Section on Information Technology centered on planning the introduction of technology, especially in developing countries where environmental or infrastructure conditions may present special challenges. The authors of the papers presented have extensive, firsthand experience in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Automated Strategies. Kris Oswalt from Community Systems Foundation in the United States was the first speaker, addressing "Automated Strategies for Social Development." Requiring a small notebook computer and a transmissive overhead for his presentation, Mr. Oswalt was prepared for the power outages experienced frequently in Delhi. His equipment included backup power packs and line regulators, both of which are vital to automation in many developing country environments.

Mr. Oswalt discussed technical advances that have improved computer reliability in less controlled environments. Todays computers are both smaller and more rugged than their predecessors, with higher heat and humidity tolerance. Diagnostic software assists in repair and user replacement of components is more feasible. Voltage regulators, internal batteries and power supply packs assist in controlling loss from electricity outages. Automatic or easy-to-use backup tools assure relatively complete recovery from unexpected events.

Case studies of successful automation projects by his company in villages in Asia and Africa were used to illustrate what can be done. In India, an information technology "network" is used to monitor and evaluate a government program to promote healthy development of young children and their mothers in disadvantaged social sectors. Over time, the data gathering system for the project was able to expand from the larger cities into the district and village levels, where power and environmental problems are more acute. The project now uses industry-standard microcomputer components that have enabled the planners to practically ignore environmental factors such as high humidity, heat and dust.

Two extra benefits of automation efforts such as this one, which reaches into remote villages, are the opportunities to provide training, which often lead to other opportunities for villagers and subsequent training of additional persons, and to provide local enrichment through collaborative planning. Downsizing equipment, using networks and using standardized data transfer formats allow and encourage involvement of local community leaders in the design of parts of the systems.

Mr. Oswalt closed by showing a session in which, through Indianet, the Indian researcher can gain access to hundreds of data bases, both informational and citation, around the globe. Using a network program called IQuest, he carried out a cross-data base search that was then quickly narrowed by the software to the most relevant recent material on the selected topic.

Mexico Overview. The next speaker, Jesus Lau, from Instituto

Tecnologico de Durango in Mexico presented a country study· "Computer and Software for Information Services: An Overview of Mexican Progress." The paper was written by Dr. Lau with colleague Martha Castro from the Colegio Americano de Durango.

The largest obstacle to computerization of libraries in Mexico has been funding for the purchase of software. Many institutions have been forced to turn to MINISIS and Micro CDS-ISIS, which were free. Since foreign software was generally English-based, some institutions have chosen to adopt Mexican packages such as SIABUC or LOGICAT, or have attempted their own development. The largest university system in Mexico, the National University, with 500,000 students at its various campuses, started automating in 1974 and presently makes its software available to others. Another problem in extending automation has been the lack of computer expertise in libraries. This has been combated with more national conferences on library automation. Education programs still lag behind, however.

While there are now a number of institutional automation projects, "connectivity" between libraries is in its infancy. As connectivity opportunities increase, standardization is becoming more important and must be treated. These two complementary factors will be a concern for the next decade as Mexico expands Internet access from the current 10 nodes and takes advantage of LAN technology.

Adapting Technologies. The final paper, presented by Anton R. Pierce, was titled "Adapting Technologies for Library Processing Projects: Africa, Asia, and South America." It outlined strategies for implementation that have evolved from his work in automating the six overseas offices of the Library of Congress in Cairo, Nairobi, Jakarta, New Delhi, Karachi and Rio de Janeiro. The automation needs of these offices involve primarily technical services support in acquisitions, distribution and cataloging. Two fundamental strategies have been standardization of hardware and software, and concentrating on PC-based applications. Standardization and PCs have made automation in all sites move more quickly and have facilitated troubleshooting from the Washington office.

Bringing the local staff in the overseas offices into the program has been a factor in the success of automation efforts thus far. Developing requirements with staff, building the systems through a series of phases and encouraging local augmentation of basic delivered hardware using standard auxiliary packages have all been effective strategies for increasing staff involvement.

And, finally, using existing, widely available software, even when this meant reshaping requirements, brings with it legions of support not possible with software developed in-house. As long as the off-the-shelf software rigorously follows appropriate national and international standards, different system components can be interfaced and records from different sites can be interchanged.

—Sally McCallum

Open Forum on Core Programs

Preservation and Conservation Core program chairman, Jean-Marie Arnoult, announced the transfer of the PAC International Focal Point from the Library of Congress to the Biblioth½eque Nationale in Paris effective January 1992. He thanked Kenneth Harris, LC's director for Preservation, and Merrily Smith for their assistance and cooperation.

With the Library of Congress now serving as a PAC Regional Center for the United States and Canada, the other Regional Centers for the next five years are at the Deutsche Bibliothek, Leipzig, Germany (serving East Europe); the Biblioteca Nacional, Caracas, Venezuela (serving Latin America and the Caribbean); the National Library of Australia, Canberra (serving Southeast Asia and Oceania); and the National Diet Library, Tokyo (serving Central and East Asia).

In addition to PAC Focal Point responsibilities, the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, will serve as a Regional Center for West Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. During the May 1991 meeting of directors of PAC Regional Centers in Washington, the terms of reference for each of the centers was more precisely defined.

PAC publications completed in the past year include *Maintenance des Materiels de Micrographie (Bibliotheque Nationale)* and two publications submitted by LC, including *Care, Handling and Storage of Photographs* and *Preservation of Serial Literature*, which is to be issued as IFLA Publication No. 57 in October 1992. In addition to conducting training workshops and courses in their respective geographic areas, the PAC centers have continued to offer a wide range of technical assistance and to conduct preservation needs assessments in many countries.

Planning is under way for a PAC-sponsored Panafrican Seminar on Preservation and Conservation to be held in Nairobi in 1993, in cooperation with the ALP Core Program and the International Congress on Archives (ICA). PAC objectives for the next five years include: raising preservation consciousness, establishment of an information network, publication of preservation literature, education and training, and research and cooperative preservation programs.

Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT). Leigh Swain, chair of the National Library of Canada, described a vigorous publications program in applications of data communication in libraries.

Reports published over the past year include those on "Research Networks and Libraries," "Electronic Document Delivery," "Converging Standards and Technology," "OSI for Libraries—From Standards to Services," "Electronic Data Interchange—Overview of Standards," and "Packet Radio Technology."

Packet radio technology appears promising for future applications in library networks because of its low cost and its capability to permit PCs to exchange library information. The UDT Newsletter is published three times a year. A UDT seminar on "Data Communication Technology and Standards for Libraries" is planned.

Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP). This Core Program was developed and defined as a special project in 1990 and 1991. The main objective of the Core Program is to further the library profession, its institutions and information services in developing countries. For the next medium-term period of 1992-97 ALP will concentrate on issues of education and training, library information services to the general public, and the promotion of greater involvement of librarians with literacy programs. ALP will also play an active role in the coordination of international efforts to support the development of library and information services in Third World countries by cooperating with other international organizations such as UNESCO, FID, and IBBY.

—*Chandru Shahani*

Serial Publications Standing Committee

Two meetings of the Standing Committee (SC) were held under the chair Suzanne Santiago, director of the International Serials Data Program (ISDS) International Center. After dealing with business and questions from IFLA's Professional Board, the committee turned to a status review of current projects. Ms. Santiago reported that the project to assist with the development of OSIRIS for use by ISDS centers in developing countries is complete.

OSIRIS is a microcomputer program for the creation and communication of ISDS bibliographic records. Judith Szilvássy, director of the Council of Europe's Information and Documentation Centre, informed the committee that work on the *Basic Serials Management Handbook* is nearing completion and the draft will be circulated to committee members for review and comment next spring.

Both projects were discussed in detail during the open program. The committee decided to terminate work on the *International Directory of Serial Experts*. It was the unanimous feeling of the committee that the cost to complete the directory could not be justified by the expected results. Progress to date on a study of institutional identifiers used internationally in union catalogs will be evaluated. If the committee decides that continued work is warranted, a new project director will need to be appointed.

The Standing Committee next turned to future projects and activities within the framework of its Medium Term Program. This fall the committee will consider the need for a project to study the application of uniform titles to serials and series. At the Barcelona Conference next year, the SC will jointly sponsor, with the Section on Bibliography, a workshop on EDI and the exchange of bibliographic data. At an open program in Barcelona, the committee will begin to explore the impact of electronic publishing on serials management.

This exploration could well lead to a new definition of serials literature. At the Havana Conference in 1994, the committee may organize a workshop on basic serials management. This of course would be based on the handbook under preparation and could evolve into a workshop on how to organize and present workshops.

—*Kimberly Dobbs*

Serial Publications—Open Program

Suzanne Santiago spoke on the topic "OSIRIS, a Microcomputer Based, On-Line Serials Information, Registration and Inquiry System." OSIRIS is a microcomputer system based on UNESCO Micro- CDS/ISIS and runs under the DOS operating system. The program was designed for the International Serials Data System (ISDS) as a means to allow automated creation and exchange of ISDS records even in national ISDS centers of smaller or less developed countries.

The system was first proposed to the ISDS directors in 1986 and accepted by the Governing Board in 1987. The system was designed and the first draft users manual delivered to the ISDS International Center in 1989. OSIRIS was beta tested in 1990-91 in the Hungarian and Irish national centers and made available for distribution in 1992. While development was relatively rapid, a system designed to accommodate serials bibliographic record creation in more than 50 countries posed many unique problems. One of the most difficult challenges to meet was the need for a very extended character set beyond the scope of EXACS, the Extended ASCII Character Set. To meet the universal requirements of ISDS, a number of compromises were necessary.

It now seems that the hard work that went into development has been well rewarded. OSIRIS will meet the primary objective of ISDS, which is to facilitate the registration of serials within the network. However, the system does not need to be restricted to use within ISDS. The system can be used by any institution that must create or maintain serials bibliographic files of fewer than 30,000 records.

Judith Szilvássy spoke about a

second of the section's projects, the *Basic Serials Management Handbook.* While Ms. Szilvássy could trace the roots of the project back to the late 1960s, the concept for the current project was introduced by the then section chair, Ross Bourne of the British Library, in 1982. The original project suggested was the preparation of "a handbook of serials housekeeping routines for users in developing countries." This proposal was further defined by Jean Whiffin, University of Victoria Library, who developed a publication outline.

The project was delayed until 1988, while an appropriate author was sought. The section felt that either a European or North American with experience in developing countries, or a librarian from a developing country with European or North American experience was needed as project director. In 1988 Ms. Szilvássy, who has years of national and international serials experience as director of Hungary's ISDS center, was selected. She has also served on five missions to Laos as a UNESCO consultant.

Based upon the section's guidance and her own experience, Ms. Szilvássy developed a project concept:
☐ the manual must be relevant to colleagues in the least developed countries,
☐ a "headquarters perspective" must be advoided,
☐ solutions should not necessarily follow Western patterns but should be based on international standards,
☐ the publication should be a basic manual of serials librarianship with an outlook to future development,
☐ the manual should not exceed 100-120 pages.

The draft of the handbook is nearly complete and will be circulated for comment in the spring of 1993. It is organized in six chapters under the captions: (1) Nature of serials; (2) Control of serials - acquisitions, bibliographic, holdings; (3) Collections maintenance and preservation; (4) Servicing; (5) International aspects and (6) Outlook for the future. Each chapter will include a select reading list and illustrations. There will be appendices for filing rules and a list of standards.

Pawan K. Gupta, Rajasthan University Library, Jaspur, presented an excellent paper titled "Serial Publications in India."

The first serial, a newspaper, published in India, was James Hicky's *Bengal Gazette,* started in 1780. It announced itself as "a weekly political and commercial paper open to all but influenced by none." Hicky was imprisoned in 1781 on charges of disturbing the peace. The publication was quickly followed by a succession of other newspapers.

From 1780 up to 1857 (the year of the Indian mutiny) newspapers were started by Englishmen who came to India with the East India Company. These were followed by a period of newspapers published by missionaries in Indian languages as well as in English. These in turn were followed by a series of vernacular-language serials published by Indians with the intent of counteracting the missionary newspapers. By 1830 there were 16 serials published in Bengali, which outnumbered serials in all other Indian languages. Even serials in Hindi came later and were less numerous.

Up to 1857, Indian-language serials dealt mostly with literary, social and religious topics. With the spread of education and the creation of large universities, a number of scholarly serials focused on the sciences, social sciences and mathematics appeared. The government and a variety of research institutions also began to publish. This trend continued with increased vigor after Indian independence in 1947.

In 1988 there were 25,536 serials published in India, up from 22,648 published in 1985. The percentage of new starts has decreased since 1971 from 7 percent down to 3.7 percent in 1988. However, the title mortality rate has also been dropping, to a low of just 186 titles in 1988. In terms of ownership in 1985, out of the 22,648 titles reported, 15,281 were published by individuals, 3,593 by societies and associations, 615 by government and 99 by foreign missions, 45 from the U.S.S.R alone.

From the very beginning, in 1780, there have been laws and regulations relating to the press. In 1867 the Press and Registration of Books Act required the registration of all but government titles. This was extended to newspapers in 1922. Since 1951 one copy of all issues of a serial must be sent to the National Library of Calcutta. Deposit requirements were extended in 1956 to require copies be sent to six major libraries.

In spite of legal requirements for deposit, there are still serious gaps in the holdings of important serial titles. For this reason the importance of union catalogs has been recognized and a number are maintained. Also, important guides to serials are published, including the *Accession List of India* published by the Library of Congress Office, New Delhi. There are also a number of abstracting and indexing services that cover Indian serials. Coverage is strongest with serials in the sciences and with major newspapers.

—Kimberly W. Dobbs

Section on Acquisition and Exchange

Program Session. Two of the three papers presented at the Section on Acquisitions and Exchange's open program related to regional themes appropriate to the conference's Indian venue.

George Baumann of the Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen presented a paper titled "Südasiatische Literatur: Erwerbung und Bearbeitung in west-europäischen Bibliotheken." South Asian collections in Europe-

an libraries began as early as the 16th century with the collection of manuscripts in libraries specializing in Indic studies and now include special collections in large research libraries, which also cover contemporary printed literature in all of the humanities and indigenous natural sciences and medicine.

The University Library in Tübingen has a longstanding and broad acquisitions program, with financial support of the German Research Library, which involves a full program of purchase (both individual and blanket order), exchange and gift activities. Challenges for acquisitions and processing from this multicultural and multilinguistic area include the need for a uniform internationally recognized transliteration system for South Asian languages and a names authority file.

Mr. Bauman called for a "supranational effort on the part of all of these European libraries" to rationalize acquisitions and processing through closer cooperation. The cooperative program of the Library of Congress's field office in New Delhi was mentioned as a model.

T. Viswanathan, director of the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), spoke on the development of scientific collections in India. INSDOC was established with UNESCO support in 1952, in response to the post-World War II explosion of scientific and technological information.

The 1958 pronouncement of the Science Policy Resolution by the Government of India resulted in INSDOC being made an independent laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the setting up of the National Science Library as part of INSDOC. This library is complemented by the National Medical Library and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. During the ensuing decades, a number of specialized scientific libraries were established under the umbrella of the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT). Close attention to networking and sharing of responsibilities with institutions of higher learning now results in the nation's scientific information residing in 300 major scientific collections. Present-day challenges for this network include the rising costs of scientific and technical periodical literature.

Tony Leisner, special assistant to chief executive officer, Dawson Group, Folkestone, Kent, England, prepared a paper titled "Why Won't You Accept My Order? Global Acquisitions Solution," in which the effect of new publishing technology on the distribution and availability of materials for libraries was considered. The revolution in desktop publishing and computer-generated texts has made some mainstream publishing as elusive as so-called "gray" or "fugitive" literature.

Materials by new small presses are frequently not listed in or available from traditional sources. Mr. Leisner believes that librarians "have been somewhat slower than the industry in their response to these changes. Many still prefer the traditional reviews and known publishers and feel uncomfortable purchasing from lesser known sources." Mr. Leisner urges librarians to seek out new ways to identify and purchase needed materials: consult the professional associations, develop strong ties with colleagues in other libraries and consult specialized and corporate libraries.

Librarians must also consider the book, journal or paper as by-products of the actual information desired. More frequently it is necessary to turn to original sources for needed information, which may now include data bases, accessible by CD-ROM, fax, eletronic mail or nontraditional avenues, which are providing information directly to end users, bypassing libraries altogether.

Exchange Workshop. The Section sponsored a half-day workshop/discussion session on the problems of international exchange of non-official publications. Attendance included delegates from a number of countries, including Japan, India, Russia, Canada and France. Judy McDermott, then chief of the Exchange and Gift Division, Library of Congress, presented a discussion paper on the problems of establishing or reestablishing exchanges with the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Many of the obstacles traditionally associated with developing countries are now present in acquiring materials from these countries: unstable economy and political situation, shortage of paper, lack of systematic book distribution and export systems, lack of national bibliography, short-lived publications, and lack of communication and postal infrastructure.

Alice Kniskern from the Library of Congress field office in New Delhi spoke about exchange arrangements in India, stating that in many respects the situation was much more stable in India than that described for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Mikhail Levner, the Library of Congress representative in Moscow, presented an update on the publishing scene in Russia. There has been a proliferation of independent nonofficial publishing, but identification of publications has become increasingly difficult, as not all publishers are reporting through traditional channels. On the other hand, new publishers' associations are being developed, which might provide an avenue of information.

The discussions were wide-ranging and included the following topics: the pressing need to acquire publications that reflect political unrest; the difficulty of creating clearinghouses for exchange of duplicate materials; problems of legal deposit; how to determine equal value for exchange materials in times of economic instability and fluctuating currency markets; the difficulty of identifying and acquiring émigré publishing; and the

problem of correctly identifying which materials are in demand in developing countries.

The Section will publish the results of its survey on exchange practice, recognizing that recent political developments have rendered some of the results obsolete.

Standing Committee. In addition to program planning for this and upcoming conferences, the Standing Committee discussed and made recommendations concerning expanded use of ISBN and is bringing to a close its bibliography on exchange. The Committee looks forward to the publication of papers presented at its Stockholm workshop on differential pricing and will investigate the possibility of updating the UNESCO publication *Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications.*

—Judy McDermott

Section on Parliamentary Libraries

For the past three years the Section has taken a special interest in and concern for the emerging democractic parliaments in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. While the attendance of the parliamentary libraries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics at this year's conference was low, the Section was especially encouraged by the presence of Igor S. Filippov and a new member, Irina Andreeva, head of the newly established Russian Parliamentary Library.

Section Dinner. The Parliamentary Libraries Section opened its official meetings with the traditional Section Dinner. This year the dinner was arranged by the Lok Sabha Library and held at the Banquet Hall at the Parliament House Annex. Twenty-seven people attended the dinner, including special guests M. Kathleen Price, law librarian of the Library of Congress, and Dr. Filippov, president of the Russia State Library.

Standing Committee Meetings. Thirty-eight people from 30 countries attended the first session of the Standing Committee. This is the highest attendance ever for such a meeting. Especially noteworthy was the presence of the first representative from the Arab nations (Sadek H. Abdowani from Oman) and also the first representatives from Ukraine (Nicholay Y. Shvetz and Nick Deychakiwsky).

Ernst Kohl, chair of the Parliamentary Libraries Section, announced that the membership continues to increase. The past year has brought applications for membership from the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australiasia; the National Library of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh; the Parliamentary Libraries of Mexico, Lithuania, Croatia, Georgia and Switzerland; the Library of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom; and the Library of Aragon (Spanish Cortes).

The Standing Committee reviewed the Section's publications. The proceedings of the meetings of the Section of Parliamentary Libraries in Helsinki and Moscow were published under the title *Soviet and East European Parliamentary Libraries at the Dawn of the Post-Communist Era and 1992* the fourth edition of the *World Directory of National Parliamentary Libraries.* Both publications were edited by Ernst Kohl.

Two papers presented at the 1991 IFLA Conference in Moscow have been published in the *IFLA Journal,* along with a paper by Dr. Kohl evaluating the performance of IFLA accomplishments under the Medium-Term Program.

Future Section publications include a new issue of the biennial *World Directory of National Parliamentary Libraries,* with a first-time addendum on Multinational Parliamentary Libraries and also information on library services and research. Additionally, the Section is working on a new publication, *World Directory of Federated States and Autonomous Regions,* to be issued every four years.

Acknowledgment was made of the recent retirement of Joobong Kim, director of the National Assembly Library of Korea and the upcoming retirements of Dermot Englefield, librarian of the House of Commons Library and Jacques Premont, parliamentary librarian of Quebec.

Open Meeting. The Open Meeting consisted of papers presented by members of the Parliamentary Libraries Section. The theme of this year's Open Meeting focused on the increasing automation of parliamentary libraries. Papers were presented by Shiou-jyuan Chen and Shu-fen Lan for Karl Min Ku of the Library and Information Service of the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China. Mr. Ku's paper was titled "Developmental Strategies of Computerized Legslative Information Services." Irina Andreeva, head of the Russian Parliamentary Library, Moscow, and Jakov Shraiberg, first deputy director of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, spoke on "The Russian Parliamentary Library: Its History, Functions and Proposed Automation." Ximena Feliu, director of the Chilean Library of Congress, was unable to present the paper cowritten with Marialyse Delana, head of Collection Management of the Chilean Library of Congress. A presentation was made on the Ukranian Parliamentary Library in its place.

Workshop. This year's workshop was held at the Lok Sabha. The theme of the workshop was "Library and Information Services to the Sansad," and the program included speakers from the Lok Sabha library and parliamentary libraries of various other Indian states. There were 85 participants at the workshop. At

the invitation of the secretary-general of the Lok Sabha, there were a cultural program and dinner after the workshop.

—*William Robinson*

Section on Libraries for the Blind

The Standing Committee of the Section on Libraries for the Blind met three times during the conference to discuss continuing projects and plan for future programs.

Winnie Vitzansky of the Danish National Library for the Blind, described a European Community-funded project in "Expansion of European Library Systems for the Visually Disadvantaged."

This 18-month effort focused on the needs of users and developed standards for library service to blind individuals in Europe. Emphasizing the application of existing technology, the project will research means for accessing the full European library system, as opposed to only materials produced specifically for the blind.

Michael Moodie, of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH) at the Library of Congress, presented a summary of the Technology Assessment and Research Program (TARP). An international effort spearheaded by NLS/BPH, TARP will lead to the development of the next generation of audio equipment for the blind. The program will monitor developing technologies and select the most suitable for modification or adaptation to library services for visually impaired individuals.

Frederic Plain-Japy of the Association Valentin Hauy, France, described the exchange of braille music on floppy disk with Sweden. Early efforts have encountered formatting problems, but these are being addressed.

Hiroshi Kawamura, chair of the University of Tokyo Library, reported on plans for an expert meeting on library service to the visually handicapped to be held in Barcelona in 1993. A joint workshop with the Section on Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons is also planned.

During the open session on Sept. 1, Hiroshi Kawamura discussed the outcome of a seminar held in Tokyo in January 1991 on library services to the visually handicapped in developing countries. As a result of the seminar, the Nepal Association for the Blind developed a plan for establishing a talking-book production in Nepal. The Standing Committee endorsed the project to the Danish International Development Agency, which has also approved it. There was a followup seminar in Dehradun, India, on Aug. 25-27. There were participants from 20 countries.

The seminar concluded with a recommendation that there was an urgent need for an international directory of suppliers of special format materials in Asian languages. The Standing Committee will undertake the publishing of the directory. Vikram Rawat of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun, presented an overview of the distribution of special format material for the visually handicapped in India. There are about 35 million blind persons in India, of whom 35,000 receive library service in braille or recorded media. Because each of the 28 producers of braille or recorded books can undertake only a limited number of titles each year, it is imperative that their collections be open to eligible persons anywhere in India.

NIVH obtains copies of all braille and audio publications produced for blind people in India and circulates them to readers via readers' clubs and individual memberships.

Michael Moodie described a project at NLS/BPH to develop an improved mailing container for shipping braille books to readers. Changes in U.S. Postal Service regulations prompted the project, which involves the analysis of user and library needs, the investigation of sample containers obtained from agencies for the blind worldwide and a lengthy process of prototyping and testing.

—*Michael M. Moodie*

IFLA Closing

Robert Wedgeworth, president of IFLA, opened the session with observations on library developments in India inspired by S.R. Ranganathan and expressed the wish that IFLA bring more of its conferences to the third world.

A.O. Banjo, member of the Professional Board, reported that 29 librarians from 25 countries participated in a pre-session seminar on "Image, Status, and Reputation of the Library and Information Profession." The participants, which Mr. Banjo identified as the "future leaders of national library organizations," adopted 10 resolutions aimed at improving image, status and recognition in the profession.

Forest W. Horton of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), remarked on the commonality of his organization and IFLA. He noted that in this time of scarce resources it is essential that the two agencies avoid duplication of effort. Mr. Horton pledged to work closely with IFLA's leadership to this end.

David Clements, chair of the Professional Board, offered a summary of the professional resolutions adopted, noting that those adopted in Moscow had suffered from the disorientation of the coup attempt.

Invitations to future IFLA conferences were extended by delegates from Spain (Barcelona, 1993) and Cuba (Havana, 1994). Robert Wedgeworth announced that the Wilson Foundation had approved a grant to support interpreters at both of the conferences.

—*Michael M. Moodie*

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